

## DE News

April 15, 2002 - Iowa Department of Education - Ted Stilwill, Director

### Special Session expected

The 2002 Legislature adjourned its general session on Friday, but all indications are that Governor Vilsack will veto the Fiscal 03 appropriations legislation and call back the lawmakers for a special session. Specific education priorities that Vilsack has said need more funding include:

- Education Excellence/ Phase III (which was reduced from \$23 million to \$9 million)
- K-12 technology (which was cut from \$10 million to \$5.7 million)

There were a number of bills that impact education that were passed by the General Assembly. For a complete summary of the status of all education bills, including those that await final Governor's action, see our website at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ootd/legis.html>.

Below are a few highlights; check the site for more details:

- 1% Allowable Growth for K-12 2002-03 state aid foundation formula, appropriating an additional \$59 million to K-12 schools.
- 2% Allowable Growth for K-12 2003-04 state aid foundation formula.
- \$40 million for continuation of the Student Achievement/Teacher Quality initiatives that were started last year.
- Changes in the Student Achievement/Teacher Quality policy to provide improved teacher evaluations but within parameters that are more consistent with current needs.
- Change in Community College staffing requirements that shifts the emphasis from licensure to professional standards and professional development.

It is not clear at this time when legislators will return for a Special Session, or what the specific agenda will be. State leaders have been at odds over the state's difficult budget issues for many months, and the debate continues because state general fund revenues continue to decline. While most agree that we need to assure Iowans have quality education with top-notch teachers, materials and programs, lawmakers disagree on the state's funding ability and resources.

We will distribute occasional updates in the coming days and weeks as we gain more details this week about a Special Session and ongoing budget issues.

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Iowa Department of Education Mission:

"Helping communities meet the learning needs of all of their children and adults"

DE News provides timely information about legislative and policy issues, grants and funding, trends in education, and other items of immediate interest to Iowa educators and policymakers. Contact: Kathi Slaughter, Iowa Department of Education, 515/281-5651 or [kathi.slaughter@ed.state.ia.us](mailto:kathi.slaughter@ed.state.ia.us).